

2. Four dorsocentrals; thorax opaque gray pruinose; head largely black; legs black, except the knees. (Alaska.) (*Agromyza*.) *parvicella* Coquillett.¹
Dorsocentrals weak, thorax somewhat subshining, the sides broadly yellow; head yellow except the occiput; anterior tibiæ and tarsi yellowish. (Id.)* *plagiata* sp. nov.
3. Posterior crossvein in front of the anterior crossvein; ovipositor depressed; opaque black species with fuscous head, pale knees, notopleural stripe and incisures of abdomen. (Eur., Id.,* Wash.)..... *anomala* Strobl.
Posterior crossvein opposite the anterior crossvein; ovipositor compressed; mostly cinereous black, the head yellowish. (Eur.;* N. H., Ill., Mo., Col.,* Alaska.) *lateralis* Fallen.

Napomyza plagiata new species.

Female.—Length 2.5 mm. Robust, opaque blackish, the front, face, cheeks, lower occipital orbits, proboscis, broad sides of the mesonotum, parts of the pleuræ, narrow apical margins of the first, second and fifth abdominal segments, root of wings, calypteres, knees, anterior tibiæ and the tarsi yellowish; knob of halteres whitish. Front broad, a little dusky towards the antennæ, four fronto-orbital bristles; antennæ brown, the third joint round, with short pubescence, arista blackish, two times as long as the third joint, minutely pubescent. Cheeks at the middle one fifth as deep as the eye-height, the vibrissæ not larger than the oral hairs. Anterior dorsocentrals scarcely larger than the adjacent setulæ, acrostichals in four very irregular rows; one sterno-pleural and one mesopleural bristle. Last segment of the abdomen transverse and polished, the ovipositor short, broad, depressed and deeply scabrous. margin and fringe of calypteres dusky. Wings nearly hyaline, veins brown, the fourth vein ending just beyond the wing tip, its sections about one to twenty, the sections of the fifth vein proportioned about one to five, the anterior crossvein at two thirds the length of the discal cell.

One specimen, Avon, Idaho, July 26, 1912.

(Continued in the December number.)

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Drosophila repleta Woll.—This strikingly colored fly, better known in America as *D. punctulata* Loew, has an extended tropical and sub-tropical distribution and has even been taken in New York City. Specimens recently determined through the kindness of Professor J. M. Aldrich, Moscow, Idaho, show that this species was taken in Albany in September and October, 1908, and also reared the preceding

¹ *Agromyza tritici* Fitch is apparently closely related.

September from a jar containing galls of *Asphondylia conspiciua* O. S. received from Highspire, Pa. The above records show that this species may range as far north as Albany, probably being carried thither in shipments of tropical fruit, though the rearing from this gall would indicate a probability of the insect breeding locally in certain vegetable tissues if conditions were favorable.—E. P. FELT.

Blow Fly Studies.—An investigation of certain local blow flies resulted in rearing large numbers of *Phormia regina* Meigen, which appears to be the most common blow fly in the vicinity of Albany, and also a flesh fly, *Sarcophaga georgina* Wied., both of which were kindly determined for us by Mr. C. W. Johnson, of the Boston Society of Natural History. The rearing of these flies incidentally shows that the maggots of both were negatively heliotropic, this being especially marked in the case of those half to full grown. It is commonly stated that blow fly maggots burrow into carrion, a habit explained by their aversion to light rather than the necessity of obtaining food. Colonies of maggots reared in almost total darkness habitually remained on the surface of the food supply in large masses, sometimes over an inch in depth and two to even four inches in diameter. The larvæ, under such conditions, were moving continuously over each other, quickly scattering and seeking shelter on exposure to light. The clustering is probably to be explained on a mechanical basis, since the smooth mucus body walls of the maggots afford less resistance to motion than almost any other material with which they would come in contact. A somewhat similar massing has been repeatedly observed in the case of the European *Sciara thomæ* Linn. or *S. militaris* Now., and more recently, in this country, of *S. sciophila* Lw. A somewhat analogous case is to be seen in the massing of *Miastor* larvæ under the bark or decaying trees. In each instance we are inclined to favor a mechanical explanation as the more reasonable cause of the phenomenon.—E. P. FELT.

Mites and a Fly.—Some six specimens of a moderate-sized mite, probably an undescribed species of *Seius*, according to Mr. Banks, of the National Museum, were found on the abdomen of *Helobia punctipennis* Meigen, some four being ranged one behind the other on the abdomen. The fly was so small that there was very little room for additional specimens unless they had attached themselves to the under

side of the abdomen or other parts of the body. Mr. Banks was of the opinion that the mites were using the fly simply for migratorial purposes and were not parasitic in any sense of the word.—E. P. FELT.

Platypus punctulatus Chap.—Numbers of this Central American borer were taken last August on mahogany logs which had been shipped around the Horn from Panama and were then in a lumber yard at Astoria. The beetles were coming out in large numbers and attacking freshly sawn sappy mahogany in the yards, running longitudinally, and in some instances vertical galleries into the wood. It was estimated that the injury in early August was as high as \$200 per day. Another Ambrosia beetle, namely, *Xyleborus torquatus* Eich., was also taken in some numbers on the mahogany logs. With the above were associated species of *Aulonium bidentatum* Fabr., *Xuthia brevipes* Sharp and *Palorus melinus* Herbst. The Scolytids were kindly identified by Dr. Hopkins through the courtesy of Dr. Howard, while the other Coleoptera were determined by Dr. Schwarz, both of Washington.—E. P. FELT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

MEETING OF APRIL 1.

A regular meeting of the New York Entomological Society was held April 1, 1913, at 8.15 P. M., in the American Museum of Natural History, Vice-President Charles L. Pollard in the chair and twelve members present.

The field committee announced an excursion to the swamp near Roselle Park, N. J., on Sunday, April 13, Mr. Harry G. Barber, guide.

Mr. William T. Davis read a paper on "The Species of *Conocephalus* to be found in New Jersey," which will be printed in the JOURNAL.

The paper was discussed by Messrs. Engelhardt, Leng and Dr. Southwick, the latter recalling the loud noise made by these insects, which he said could be heard above the roar of a train.

Dr. Lutz recalled the Greek myth by which the goddess Aurora, becoming enamoured of the mortal Tithonius, secured for him the gift of immortality, but forgot to include eternal youth, so that eventually he shriveled to nothing but voice, which is still heard in the stridulation of these grasshopper-like insects.

Mr. Davis, recalling the days before the Greeks, commented upon the entomological skill of Noah, supposing that he succeeded in selecting a ♂